TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 3, 2005

LB 117

in this time that we find ourselves fighting for funding to fund clandestine lab teams and multiagency law enforcement groups that go in and buy drugs and use those buys to generate arrests and probable cause. We're running out of funding there. We don't have the money to clean up these meth labs. Let's focus our resources on things that will help us in the end combat the supply side of the methamphetamine problem. Senator Stuthman has talked a lot about treatment. I think that's important. But I think this bill is primarily focused on the supply side and making sure that these drugs, those drugs being Sudafed, over-the-counter cold medicines, are behind the counter is a logical step in a series of steps to reduce the number of meth labs in Nebraska and focus law enforcement's efforts in other directions toward the meth problem. Thank you and I return the balance of my time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Janssen.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I'll say again this is one of the more innocuous aspects of the bill. As Senator Stuthman pointed out, there are some retailers doing this anyway and some had been doing it before all of this craze of enacting these bills had come into play. I don't know what person it was who drafted the first one of these so-called antimeth bills, but it was readily sucked up and swallowed because everybody is desperate to do something. That's the difference between me and most of the people on this floor. I don't just say anything is better than nothing. That is not always the case. Sometimes it is good to take all the time needed to evaluate the problem. The Legislature never undertook an independent study or determination of what the problem of meth is in this state. 1 don't mean the mere fact that people are using it. And it is of importance, contrary to what my young friend, Senator Flood, suggested as to the amount of meth coming into this state from outside and the amount being manufactured herein. hearing from law enforcement, and I've said I'm distrustful of them, that they're spending all of this time on these labs and they cannot give time to 90 percent of this terrible substance That is positively insane and I don't accept it as coming in. the truth. You all are so naive. That's why these cops feed